

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney thanks the examiner the courtesy of a recent telephone conversation. It is believed that the claims are now allowable over the cited art including U.S. Patent 5,184,993.

The prior art shows that floatation elements have been provided on the ends of rods, see for example '993 Fig. 5. U.S. Patent No. 5,203,575 also illustrates a manner in which the prior art teaches floatation elements at the end of an elongated rod. However, what is not illustrated is a centrally located floatation element, which pair of grasping members each has a enlarged floatation section directly adjacent the outboard located grasping section. That is, it is not believed that the prior art teaches grasping members in the nature of dumbbells, outboard a centrally located floatation element.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,
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